

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/15880

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.C1⁷ A61B10/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.C1⁷ A61B10/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00/7562 A1 (HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY INC.),		1,18
A	14 December, 2000 (14.12.00), & JP 2003-501126 A		2
X	JP 11-4830 A (Hitachi, Ltd.),		1,18
A	12 January, 1999 (12.01.99), (Family: none)		2
X	JP 10-85204 A (HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY INC.),		1,18
A	07 April, 1998 (07.04.98), Figs. 7, 19, 20		2
	& EP 816829 A2		

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
09 March, 2004 (09.03.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
23 March 2004 (23.03.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No

Telephone No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1, 18 are each disclosed in Document WO 00/74562 A1 (HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY INC.) 14 December, 2000 (14.12.00), Document JP 11-4830 A (Hitachi, Ltd.) 12 January, 1999 (12.01.99), and Document JP 10-85204 A (HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY INC.) 07 April, 1998 (07.04.98), Figs. 7, 19, 20; thus, they are not novel. As a result, Claim 18 for which novelty and inventive step are denied forms a class in the first dependent series (Claims 1, 2) that are the main invention, while Claim 3-5, Claim 6, Claims 7, 8, 11, Claims 9, 10, Claim 12, Claim 13, Claims 14-17, Claim 19, Claim 20, having a temporary special technical feature in common, form separate classes. Therefore, it is deemed that ten inventions are described in the claims.

- As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
- No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1, 2, 18

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.